



THE TEMPLE TIMES

Freemasonry In The Community

September Edition 2004



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

By W.Bro John Bermon

I hope you all enjoy the new Masonic season.

The sad news of Carrollyn's death shocked us all and the number of people who attended the cremation and afterwards at the Masonic Centre was a great tribute to her memory.

Greg Bermon, the new General Manager, has taken up his position and looks forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming months.

We are having little success in finding new premises despite considerable efforts by the sub-committee concerned. Two premises have been considered but both were unsuccessful due to planning difficulties and lack of parking facilities. A third has been located but the vendor has increased his asking price beyond our means, it has not been ruled out however. We shall continue to seek alternatives and report further at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 8 November 2004.

In view of an impending move, we have not carried out any major maintenance projects during the summer shutdown period

CARROLLYN CROMBIE

Carrollyn Crombie, who had been the General Manager at Southend Masonic Centre for the past fourteen years, died suddenly on 25 July 2004.

Carrollyn had retired from her position as General Manager a few weeks before her death and was buying a riding school to fulfill a life-long ambition of working with horses. She was an expert horsewoman who spent all her spare time with her horses and actively competing. In fact, she was taking part in a dressage competition when she collapsed and died. Sadly her new life did not come to fruition.

Carrollyn had contributed immensely to the success of Southend Masonic Centre and enjoyed a warm relationship with Lodge secretaries, the directors and members whom she had come to know over the years. She worked extremely long hours to ensure meetings and dining arrangements ran smoothly and knew the idiosyncrasies of all the Lodge secretaries. She will be sadly missed by everyone.

Our condolences go out to her husband Colin, daughter Cherylyn, son Mark, the four grandchildren and the rest of her family.

Brethren anyone still wishing to make a donation towards Carrollyn's memory please contact General Manager Greg Bermon.

JUNIOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT - "TOMORROWS BECKHAM TODAY?" By W.Bro Tevor Derby

Over 330 young footballers from across Essex competed in the annual junior soccer tournament organised by Southend and Rochford Freemasons on Bank Holiday Sunday 29th August. The event at the Southend Borough Combination Ground was a real family day out with parents, siblings and friends supporting 31 teams from the 19 clubs taking part in four competitions. A number of fun-day activities were provided for their additional enjoyment.

The winning teams were; Under 9's Great Wakering, Under 10's Tigers Leigh Ramblers (Southend), Under 10's Lions Elmwood Colts "A" (Southend) & Under 14's Broomfield FC (Chelmsford).

There were cups for the winning clubs, trophies for the boys in the winning teams and runners-up, and every other boy received a commemorative medal all featuring the square and compass logo. The coveted "Goldfinch Services Masonic Challenge Cup" was presented to the winners of the Under 10's Lions competition.

Sportsmanship, good humour and friendship, principles that are wholly consistent with our Masonic teaching, was evident throughout the day. Judging by the feedback received this was yet another successful and enjoyable day. This quote is typical "I would like to thank you and everyone involved for a super day. The tournament was run very well and seemed to go very smoothly. I know that you must have put a lot of hard work in for this to happen and it is much appreciated". The manager, Broomfield FC.

The event is now firmly established on the junior soccer calendar as possibly the premier tournament of its type. It is affiliated to the Essex FA and is widely publicised on its website.

A number of Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic organisations, as well as individuals (both Masons and non-Masons) and local businesses significantly contributed to the expenses of the event by sponsoring the tournament. To all of them we offer our grateful thanks.

INTRODUCING THE NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Bro Greg Bermon

Having been born into the Bermon family Greg was fortunate to have had a loving and alcoholic upbringing under the watchful eye of our Chairman W. Bro John Harry Bermon. Spending his school years at Westcliff High school For Boys Greg was heavily involved with Rugby and Bike Shed Studies. During his university years Greg studied Business Administration at The University of West England (Bristol) graduating in 1998 with 2:1 BA (Hons). Keen to travel the globe he then decided to work as a counsellor at Blue Star Summer Camp in North Carolina, USA, continuing afterwards to travel throughout the East Coast of USA in search of a bar that sold beer by the pint. Having completed his tour of the USA Greg headed straight into a Trainee Management program with Choice Hotels Europe where he won 'Trainee Manager of the Year' 1998/9 and appointed as youngest Deputy Manager of the company at the flagship hotel in Loughborough (100 bed, 3 star). By 2001 Greg decided to return to Southend and accepted the position of Operations Manager at the Thistle Hotel at Brands Hatch (145 bed, 4 star) and in 2002 moved into General Management with a fine dining A la Carte restaurant in Chelmsford called The New Street Brasserie. Being an independent restaurant this role gave him far more flexibility with decision making and purchasing negotiation, and also fine tuned his skills to the very highest catering standards. When the opportunity of managing the Southend Masonic Centre arose it was a role that Greg thought perfectly suited his background and experience. I'm sure you're be the first tell him if this is not the case!

ROCHFORD vs SOUTHEND CRICKET MATCH

By W. Bro Trevor Derby

The Rochford and Southend Masonic Centres enjoyed another wonderful social occasion when they played a fun cricket match on Sunday 13th June. Once again the sun shone, the beer flowed, the barbecue was in popular demand, the kids enjoyed the bouncy castle and the cricket was great fun.

This year the sides were more evenly matched and in a close fought contest Southend finished as winners by 20 runs, with "extras" top scoring for both sides. Thus Southend gained revenge for their ignominious defeat last year and Derek Childs, the secretary of the Rochford Centre, reluctantly handed over the "trophy", a small inscribed cricket bat, to John Bermon, chairman of the Southend Centre. Chris Hicks, one of the umpires, received a heavy blow from a cricket ball on the temple, but fortunately for both himself in particular and the match in general, Chris was soon able to resume his umpiring duties.

The match was organised purely as a social event with a raffle being held to cover the expenses of the day producing a profit of £200 for a local non-Masonic charity.

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

By Wy. Bro. Gerald C. Colwell, P.G.Std.B., Prov. Grand Recorder

R. Wy. Bro. Walter Hall was Installed as the Supreme Ruler of the Province of Essex, Order of the Secret Monitor on Wednesday, 30th. June, 2004 at Freemasons' Hall, Woodgrange Drive, Southend on Sea, by the M. Wy. Peter Glyn Williams, C. St.J., Grand Supreme Ruler assisted by Officers of Grand Conclave R. Wy. Bro. Walter is aged 57, married with two grown up children and has lived in Chelmsford with his wife Ethanie for 30 years. He was educated at Tonbridge Grammar School and has both a BA in Humanities (with first class honours) and an MA in History (with distinction) from the Open University. He joined, what is now, the Nat West Bank on leaving school and after a varied career, including secondment to the Department of Trade and Industry was appointed to Senior Management of two large branches in the City of London and to Area Manager in 1995, retiring in 1997. Walter became a magistrate in 1987 and currently sits as a Court Chairman in both criminal and family courts. He has been Deputy Chairman of the Mid-North Essex Bench since 2001 and A Freeman and a liveryman of the City of London. A keen rugby player in his younger years representing Kent and All-England Banks and Foundation Governor of King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford. Walter was Initiated into Freemasonry in 1986 in the United Empire Lodge No. 3868, becoming Master in 1995. A member and Past Master of Old Chelmsfordian Lodge No. 5499 and Past 1st. Principal in Mildmay Chapter No. 5149. In Essex he is Prov. Grand Treasurer in the Mark and Prov. Vice-Chancellor in the K.T. and holds Grand Rank appointments in both Orders. He was Inducted into Anglia Conclave No. 288 (OSM) in 1993 and installed as Supreme Ruler in 1999. He was appointed to Grand Conclave Rank in 2003. He is a member of the 30 degree in Rose Croix, belongs to several other side Orders and is the present Master in both an Allied and Royal and Select Masters Council.

Walter is also a Director of Chelmsford Masonic Hall

YOUR TEMPLE NEEDS YOU By Bro Greg Bermon

Improvements to the service and facilities at the at your centre will be greatly assisted by communicating and working together. I am looking for any constructive comments and feedback, recommendations and requests, and any issues that you believe need addressing. If you have an idea that will benefit the members and the Centre then I will endeavour to ensure it is delivered.

Although most members use the Centre largely for Masonic occasions I would like to stress that this need not be the case, with dates available at many times throughout the year that could be used for sports society functions, birthday parties and a multitude of other occasions. With competitive prices and high quality of cuisine and service I implore you to bear us in mind when planning any events in the future.

I look forward to a massive influx of ideas and proposals to put Southend Masonic Centre on the map as the premium venue in Essex and the South East. Manv Thanks